BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS Infoline

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highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate dropped 0.7 percentage points between October and November, falling to 7.0% (seasonally adjusted).** The number of people with jobs in the province rose slightly (+0.2%), but the main reason for the lower unemployment rate was that BC's labour force shrank 0.5% (-11,400) during November, so there were fewer people looking for work.

  Nationally, a 0.4% net gain in the size of the labour force was absorbed by a similar increase (+0.4%) in employment, keeping the unemployment rate unchanged at 6.9%.

  Among provinces, unemployment rates ranged from a low of 4.9% in both Alberta and Manitoba to 17.6% in Newfoundland. Revenues from offshore drilling activities have provided a much-needed boost to Newfoundland's economy, and unemployment rates in the region are beginning to moderate, though they remain very high compared to the rest of the country. PEI (13.8%) and New Brunswick (10.5%) were the only other provinces where the jobless rate was in the double digits. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **A 1.6% increase in the number of private sector jobs was the reason for BC's modest employment growth last month.** Public sector employment fell 2.9%, ending a 3-month-long growth spurt. At the same time, the number of self-employed British Columbians dropped 1.3% to 351,000. Part-time employment increased 0.6% between October and November, but the number of people working full-time rose only marginally (+0.1%). Among young workers (aged 15-24), the unemployment rate dropped 1.5 percentage points to 14.2%. The jobless rate for those aged 25 and over was 5.6%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Mainland/Southwest (5.7%, 3-month moving average) and Northeast (also at 5.7%) had the lowest unemployment rates in the province.** In both regions, the jobless rate was well below November 1999 levels, reflecting the fact that employment growth during the last year has been more than strong enough to absorb an expansion in the size of the labour force. Unemployment rates in the rest of BC ranged from 8.1% in Thompson/Okanagan to 11.5% in North Coast/Nechako.

  In Vancouver Island/Coast, the number of jobs fell (-7.1%) for the fifth month in a row. Cariboo (-0.5%) and North Coast/Nechako (-0.4%) also experienced some job losses relative to November 1999. Employment was up in all other parts of the province. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Port Activity

- **The Port of Vancouver remained the busiest in Canada in 1999, handling 69.8 million tonnes of cargo despite a 4-week-long trucker's strike and a 9-day lockout of longshoremen.** The strike and lockout, plus the continued effect of weak Asian demand for coal contributed to a 1.2% decline in the amount of cargo handled by the port last year. This was partly offset by increased shipments of lumber, woodpulp, logs and bolts, and containerized cargo to international destinations.

  Both Vancouver and Fraser River benefitted from a building boom in the US, handling 34.7% more logs and bolts than in 1998. The impact of the increase was magnified because much of the cargo was handled twice: first when the logs and bolts were sent to them from Vancouver Is-

Report **Migration of rural youth**

Did you know...
In 1900, nearly half of all deaths in BC were due to accidents and violence (15%) or communicable diseases (28%). By the end of the century, they accounted for just 14% of all deaths.

land ports, then when the logs were loaded for export. A 13.9% increase in pulpwood exports

River, where the total amount of cargo handled last year rose 19.4% to 9.2 million tonnes, was th busiest port. Activity at Prince Rupert was down 10.2% (to 7.6 million tonnes), partly due to weaker coal and grain shipments. Howe Sound handled 5.3 million tonnes (+11.6%) of cargo. Prince Rupert and Howe Sound are ranked 14th and 19th, respectively, among Canadian ports. Last year, 382.0 million tonnes of cargo passed through Canadian ports. Three-quarters of that total was handled by the 20 busiest ports.

Source: SC, Catalogue 50-002-XIB

Homeowner Repairs and Renovations

- **BC homeowners spent just under two billion dollars on home repairs and renovations last year.** After adjusting for inflation, this translates into a 9.9% increase over 1998, but falls short of the $2.3 billion peak reached in 1992. The average amount spent by BC homeowners was $1,966, which was $156 more than the national average ($1,810). Among the provinces, renovation and repair spending was highest in BC and lowest in Manitoba ($1,290). Nearly half ($921) of the spending in BC was for repairs, maintenance and replacements, with the remainder ($1,046) used for additions, renovations and new installations. This was similar to the national average ($789, compared to $1,021), although BC homeowners were slightly more likely than other Canadians to be fixing rather than enhancing their dwellings. *Source: SC, Catalogue 62-201-XIB*

Stalking

- **Last year, 5,382 incidents of criminal harassment (stalking) involving 5,910 victims and 3,842 accused were reported by a sample of 106 Canadian police forces.** The reporting forces represented areas where 41% of the annual crime volume occurs. The Vancouver police reported 379 stalking incidents in 1999, giving the city an incident rate of 68 per 100,000 population. This was the third highest in the country, after Saskatoon (75) and Montreal (73). Edmonton (11), Calgary (12) and London (12) had the lowest incidence of stalking among 10 selected cities. However, city police in both Edmonton and Vancouver reported that the number of incidents per 100,000 population has more than doubled (from 5 and 25, respectively) since 1995. Three out of four (77%) stalking victims are female, while 84% of those accused are male. Women aged 20-24 are at the greatest risk of being stalked. The accused men are most likely to be aged 30-39.

Source: SC, Juristat, Vol 20 No 11

AIDS

- **A total of 2,880 AIDS cases were diagnosed in British Columbia between 1983 and 1999.** Of this total, 2,717 were males and 161 were females. Nearly half (1,224) of the males were in their thirties when they were first diagnosed. Last year, 103 new cases were reported, down from 133 in 1998. The number of new AIDS diagnoses had peaked at 295 in 1993, but has been falling since then. *Source: BC Centre for Disease Control data*

Film and Video Distribution

- **Revenues from the domestic distribution of Canadian-made film and video productions reached $115 million in 1998/99, with another $147 million coming from foreign purchasers.** Sales of foreign productions totalled $744 million. Wholesaling of videocassettes generated another $1.0 billion in revenues, helping to push total Canadian revenues over the $2 billion mark for the first time. *Source: SC, Catalogue 87F0010XPE*

The Nation

- **Canada's economy expanded 1.2% (seasonally adjusted) in the third quarter, maintaining the steady pace of growth established at the end of last year.** After adjusting for inflation, domestic demand for goods and services was up 1.4%, largely due to investment by the business (+2.3%) and government (+2.7%) sectors. Consumer (+1.3%) and government (+0.7%) pur-chases of goods and services also advanced in the third quarter. However, the overall effect of the stronger domestic demand was dampened as exports edged down 0.1% while imports rose 1.5%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number

December 1, 2000

Infoline Report: Migration of rural youth

Contact: Ruth McDougall / (250) 387-0337

Originally published in the Second Quarter 2000 issue, *Migration Highlights*. Annual subscription: $30 + GST

Summary

There have been concerns for some time about the movement of young people away from rural communities. Youth have been leaving rural areas to find employment in urban centres or to enrol in post-secondary educational institutions, and subsequently finding jobs in the urban areas. Statistics Canada has recently released a study[1], which examines the migration patterns in rural and urban areas of the country. In addition, the study provides information about migration between rural and urban British Columbia, both at the provincial and sub-provincial level.

There are many factors that contribute to the movement of young people from rural communities and small towns to larger urban centres, such as Vancouver, Victoria, Kelowna, Nanaimo or Prince George. The availability of a variety of employment opportunities is important to young people entering the labour market, as is the range of social and other activities that can be found in urban settings. Other youth are drawn to urban settings with post-secondary institutions to continue their education and once having left their home communities may be more likely to later find employment in an urban centre. On the other hand, there are also youth that are attracted to small towns and rural communities for jobs, especially in the resource sectors, and for other reasons such as recreation opportunities and more affordable housing. Analysis of migration to non-metro rural counties in the United States[2] indicates that natural amenities, which pertain to the physical environment and enhance a location as a place of residence, are important to all age groups, not just those approaching retirement. The U.S. counties that ranked highest on natural amenities, whatever their economic base, were the ones that offered an ideal climate and interesting terrain such as mountains, ocean, rivers and lakes. Virtually all of these counties were in the western states.

This article will look at the movements between rural and urban areas of the province, although the reasons for moving are not explicit in the data. In 1996, rural youth (aged 15 to 29 years) represented more than half of the population of young people in three of the eight regions of the province: Nechako (100%), Kootenay (85%) and Northeast (53%). On the other hand, only 3% of

Definitions

The data used in the study come from the 1996 Census and T1 tax records. The 1996 ***Census*** *gives information on a person's location in both 1991 and 1996.* ***Tax*** *data also provide information on five-year migration patterns, as well as migration over a longer period.*

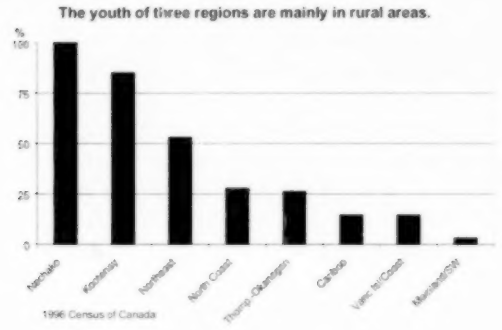
An ***urban area*** *is a geographical unit belonging to either a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) or a Census Agglomeration (CA), that has an urbanized core of more than 10,000 persons.* ***Rural areas*** *and* ***small towns*** *are defined residually as geographical units that are neither CMAs nor CAs. Migration flows for B.C. are analyzed using geographical units defined as rural/urban areas within each of the eight development regions (DR).*

A ***leaver*** *is defined as a person who was in a given geographical unit in 1991 but not in 1996; otherwise, a person is a* ***stayer****. A* ***permanent stayer*** *is a person who stayed in the same geographical unit for all 11 years of the 1987-1997 period. A* ***return migrant*** *is a person who changed geographical units at some point during the period but was in the same unit in both 1987 and 1997. A* ***permanent leaver*** *is a person who changed geographical units at some point during the period but was in different units in 1987 and 1997.*

[1] Dupuy, Richard, Francine Mayer and René Morissette [2000], "Rural Youth: Stayers, Leavers and Return Migrants", Statistics Canada, Research Paper Series No. 152, Analytical Studies Branch.

[2] Thrush, Glenn [1999], "Something in the Way We Move", American Demographics, November 1999.

the Mainland/Southwest region's youth lived in rural areas. The rural young people who were working full-time in 1996 were more likely than their urban counterparts to be employed in the primary sector (agriculture, fishing, forestry, mining) or in manufacturing. The urban youth were more likely to be working in business or distributive services, such as transportation.



Between 1991 and 1996, there was strong migration of young people both within B.C. and from outside the province. As a result, rural communities experienced a net loss (-3.1%) of teenagers aged 15 to 19 due to migration, while the teenage population in urban centres increased by 10.7%. Over the same period the rural population of older youth grew more strongly than the urban population (29.0% rural vs 10.2% urban for the 21-24 age group and 21.3% rural vs 6.5% for the 25-29 age group). There was more volatility in the rural youth population than in the urban youth as larger proportions left rural areas than urban areas but also larger proportions came to rural areas. Those coming to rural areas were most likely to come from urban areas within the province, while those coming to urban areas were most likely to come from urban areas in other provinces. For the province as a whole, the 1991 to 1996 period was characterised by strong inflows of people from other provinces, with a large proportion of them being young adults.

The following table shows the different rural and urban net flows by age group and region. For the teenage group, there were large net outflows for rural parts of Kootenay, Thompson-Okanagan and Nechako regions and a large net inflow for rural Northeast. Mainland/Southwest attracted the largest share of youth to urban centres. For the 20-24 year olds, the rural areas of all regions had net inflows with over 40% for both Cariboo and Northeast. Thompson-Okanagan had the largest urban net inflow. For the oldest youth, the rural inflows were generally smaller than for the middle age group, with Vancouver Island/Coast having the largest net inflow. Thompson-Okanagan and Kootenay had the largest urban net inflows. These data indicate that although the populations of rural communities and small towns grew between 1991 and 1996, there was a great deal of turnover among their youth.

Although young people may move from rural area to urban centres, it is also of interest to know whether they later return to their rural roots, to either the same area that they left or to another rural part of the province. The data for the 1987 to 1997 period provides information on this issue. For the 15 to 19 age group, 14.4% had left and returned to the same rural area between 1987 and 1997, while 19.0% of this group had left their rural area but by 1997 were living somewhere else in rural B.C. These proportions fall as the age of the young people in-

Net Migration Flows (%) by Age and Region, 1991 to 1996

		Age in 1991		
Development Region		**15-19**	**20-24**	**25-29**
Vancouver Island / Coast	Rural	1.1	32.7	30.7
	Urban	9.1	5.2	9.1
Mainland / Southwest	Rural	17.2	37.5	22.1
	Urban	13.5	10.7	3.9
Thompson - Okanagan	Rural	-13.2	32.4	25.7
	Urban	7.9	18.4	22.3
Kootenay	Rural	-14.4	18.1	18.7
	Urban	-8.6	0.6	22.0
Cariboo	Rural	7.1	41.7	21.2
	Urban	1.2	11.3	9.1
North Coast	Rural	3.8	16.8	14.0
	Urban	-6.3	8.5	4.3
Nechako	Rural	-8.9	20.4	7.4
Northeast	Rural	31.1	40.3	15.5
	Urban	3.7	1.9	0.9
British Columbia	Rural	-3.1	29.0	21.3
	Urban	10.7	10.2	6.5

Source: 1996 Census of Canada

creases. For the 20 to 24 age group, 11.3% had returned to their rural area of origin and 16.7% to rural B.C. For the 25 to 29 age group, 8.0% had returned to their rural area of origin and 13.3% to rural B.C. The proportions of youth who return to rural B.C. are somewhat higher than for the country as a whole but are not high enough to have a major impact on the growth of rural communities. Instead growth in these areas will be dependent on migration from other areas, most likely urban areas of B.C.

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Infoline

December 1, 2000

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/00	% change on one year ago
BC	4,063.8	0.9
Canada	30,750.1	0.8
GDP and INCOME		% change on
(BC - at market prices)	1999	one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	118,783	4.2
GDP *($ 1992 millions)*	104,323	2.1
GDP *($ 1992 per Capita)*	25,899	1.3
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1992 per Capita)*	16,700	0.0
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Sep	3,124	-3.0
Merchandise Exports (raw) Sep	2,783	9.7
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Sep	3,016	5.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on
(all items - 1992=100)	Oct '00	one year ago
BC	114.5	2.4
Canada	114.6	2.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Nov '00	one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,111	1.4
Employed - BC	1,964	2.5
Unemployed - BC	147	-11.2
		Nov '99
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.0	8.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.9	6.9
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Nov 29/00	Dec 1/99
Prime Business Rate	7.50	6.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.90	7.35
- 5 year	8.25	8.25
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Nov 29/00	Dec 1/99
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.5404	1.4742
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6481	0.6784
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Nov '00	one year ago
BC	643.16	2.2
Canada	622.49	3.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm

Transmission problems

A power outage that interrupted service last weekend caused hardware problems that were not resolved until Thursday. If you did not receive last weekend's transmission and still require a copy we request that you pull it off our Internet site. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Released this week by BC STATS

- Business Indicators, (Tables) November 2000
- Current Statistics, November 2000

Next week

- Business Indicators, (Article) November 2000
- Labour Force Statistics, November 2000

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